

Bristol, Friday Novemberth

1849

My dear Mr. May.

I wrote to you by last Saturday's Mail to prepare you for the arrival in Boston, by a Steamer to sail from Liverpool to-morrow week (the 17th) of Mrs. Michell's ^{& Miss Ames's} Model of "an English Village Club & Fair."

Fortunately for our convenience, the St. Patrick arrangements require it to be sent from Bristol next Tuesday week (the 20th) to Liverpool, and to be on board the Niagara by Saturday the 24th inst, the day of her sailing ^{for Boston.}

Let me then request you to be on the look out for the Niagara on, or before the 8th of December.

The model is attracting such admiration here; so many regrets are expressed at its being sent away, so much

recommendation that at least it should
be publicly exhibited at our "Art Union,"
that our stifled fears, lest when it
gets to Boston it should ^{be a mass} ~~be a mass~~ of a dirty-
colored powder, are beginning to burst
forth. Still, we are resolved that you
shall have a chance at least of seeing
& possessing this work in its beauty.
No doubt you must have some skil-
ful lady-surgeons among you who
by the aid of pine & gum may be able
to fasten neatly broken legs, or fallen
off arms, casualties, which the
fragile materials of the model, render
too probable? But I ought not for a
moment to doubt these scientific at-
tainments of your ^{abolitionist} ladies, when I
remember Mr. Garrison's earnest ad-
vocacy of female physicians & sur-
geons. I wish then, well thro' the
necessary ordeal of the dissecting-rooms; -
the discipline of severe study, the hard-

rowing scenes of agony & sorrow necessary
to steel their nerves, to instruct their un-
derstanding, & to mature their ^{experience,} ~~perfection~~
for the conscientious, & competent
practice of their solemn calling!

However, this has nothing to do with
the purpose of my letter, tho' more in
my way than placing ~~figures~~ bread-
men, women & men keys upon a
piece of cork!

I should think there could not
have been fewer than 200 friends,
(or friends of friends) who have called
at our house yesterday & to day to see
the model, some artists, & all have
expressed much satisfaction. My daughter
& Mrs. Michell are quite tired out with
their office of exhibitors, & wish women
to prevent any from touching the model
near to it, they are obliged to go, in order
to see the minute representations of

objects. A lady who saw it a day or
two ago has written an animated and
accurate description of it, but by no
means so graphic as that Mrs. Michell
has prepared for the blind pupils,
copy of which my daughter has made
to send with the Fair.

We have been trying if it were possible
to have it Daguerre-typed, but it seems
an optical impossibility to bring the
whole into focus at the same time,
with out the image being so small
as to be unintelligible: parts however
look very beautiful in the Camera obscura.

In haste, from my dear Sir

Yours sincerely,

J. B. Estlin

I and the lady's account of the
model